Volunteers wanted: Nest Box Monitors

Wallkill River National Wildlife Refuge is seeking volunteers to monitor and repair 35 nest boxes and two purple martin houses between the months of March and July. Approximately 20 nest boxes (and the purple martin houses) are located off of paved roads and are easily accessible; several nest boxes are located off of the Dagmar Dale refuge trail and require either 2 miles of hiking or that volunteer(s) receive FWS training for use of UTV vehicles (provided by refuge). Estimated time commitment is 3-4 hours every 7-10 days throughout the breeding season; work can be divided among multiple volunteers if desired. Volunteers will be trained and provided with all required forms and are free to conduct box checks whenever their schedules allow; if UTV is desired for box checks, those must be conducted when staff are present. Volunteers are responsible for monitoring the condition of the boxes and making minor repairs (replacing eye-hooks, predator guards, lost screws; basic carpentry to replace broken side panels, roofs, etc.), recording legible and accurate data, and reporting to the refuge biologist in a timely fashion. If volunteer desires to take UTV training, they must make themselves available for the 8-hour, weekday training to be scheduled in June. Refuge will make supplies and tools available and/or will reimburse volunteers for expenses incurred.

Volunteers can expect to see nests, eggs, and young of tree swallows, house wrens, bluebirds, purple martins, and occasional house sparrows, from egg-laying through fledging stage. Volunteers will be report to biologist Marilyn Kitchell. Contact Marilyn 862-926-7604 with any questions or interest. And THANK YOU!!

Volunteers wanted: Bird Surveyors

Wallkill River National Wildlife Refuge is seeking qualified bird surveyors to conduct breeding bird surveys during the months of May and June. Two surveys are required, each lasting approximately 4 hours and involving 2-3 miles of hiking through open or forested terrain (depending on survey type.) Volunteers will be trained in survey methods (not in bird/song identification, capable identification skills are expected) and provided with all required forms, but surveys must be conducted within strict weather and calendar prescriptions according to survey protocols. Volunteers are responsible for recording legible and accurate data, and reporting to the refuge biologist in a timely fashion. Interested surveyors must be adept at songbird identification by ear and sight, and must accompany refuge biologists for at least 2 surveys prior to conducting independent work. Target populations include grassland breeding birds and forest-interior landbirds.

Volunteers can expect to see portions of the refuge normally closed to visitors and to hear/see wood thrush, scarlet tanager, eastern wood peewee, Louisiana waterthrush, grasshopper sparrow, bobolink, and numerous others. Volunteers will report to biologist Marilyn Kitchell. Contact Marilyn 862-926-7604 with any questions or interest. And THANK YOU!!

Volunteers wanted: Invasive Species Control

Wallkill River National Wildlife Refuge is seeking volunteers to assist with invasive species control from May through September. Control methods may include hand-pulling, mechanical control, or herbicidal control and will be dictated by the refuge biologist according to the species treated and time of year. Hand-pulling may be conducted whenever volunteer schedules allow; mechanical or herbicidal control must be conducted during the week when staff are present such that equipment can be made available and/or to provide help alongside refuge staff. Volunteers may also be asked to sharpen tools as needed to maintain function. Refuge will provide all necessary training and equipment. Expected time commitment is 4-6 hours per month or as much as schedules and interest allows. Depending on volunteer response, group work days may be scheduled in addition to individual area assignments. Volunteers must report achievements to the biologist in a timely fashion. Refuge will supply all necessary tools and equipment as well as area maps and reporting forms.

Volunteers can expect to see portions of the refuge normally closed to visitors and to learn plant identification skills and habitat management techniques. Opportunities may include kayaking within impoundments or refuge streams/rivers to monitor or remove aquatic invasives (kayaking equipment provided.) Invasive species control is the refuge's most time-consuming habitat management task and is our greatest area of need. Volunteers will report to biologist Marilyn Kitchell. Contact Marilyn 862-926-7604 with any questions or interest. And THANK YOU!!

Volunteers wanted: Garden keepers

Wallkill River National Wildlife Refuge is seeking volunteers to assist with maintenance of the refuge's three native plant (pollinator) gardens, located at refuge headquarters and at Owens Station Crossing. In keeping with the refuge's focus on providing pollinator habitat, herbicides (pesticides) are not used within these gardens, which are among the refuge's most frequently praised assets in the summer months. Help is needed between the months of April and October with edging, weeding, watering, trimming, weed-whacking and some planting. Expected time commitment is 4-6 hours per month or as much as interest allows; work may be completed according to the volunteer's schedule. Volunteers will receive direction from refuge volunteer Jean Cramer but will report to refuge biologist Marilyn Kitchell. Refuge will supply all necessary training, tools and equipment.

Volunteers can expect to learn identification of dozens of native plants and butterflies and take pride in helping to maintain these beautiful assets, which draw pollinators and

people alike to some of the refuge's most-visited locations. Contact Marilyn 862-926-7604 with any questions or interest. THANK YOU!!!